

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1182

S E C R E T PEKING 1675

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP

SUBJ: USLO IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS FOR SPACE
AND FACILITIES

1. I HAVE BECOME CONCERNED THAT DESIRABLE LOCATIONS FOR A PERMANENT MISSION IN PEKING ARE FAST BEING ALLOTTED. THE INDICATION IS THAT SOON THE ONLY PLOTS AVAILABLE WILL BE ON THE NORTHERN, RURAL FRINGES OF SAN LI TUN, THE FARTHER FROM THE CITY OF THE TWO DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVES. WHILE ADEQUATE SPACE IS THE MAJOR FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED, LOCATION IS AN IMPORTANT SECONDARY FACTOR, FOR REASONS OF BOTH EFFICIENCY IN OPERATION AND MORALE.

2. OUR PRESENT LOCATION IS NEAR THE APARTMENTS WHERE MOST OF OUR PERSONNEL ARE (AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE) HOUSED, NEAR THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB, WHERE MANY OF THE AMERICAN STAFF AND MOST OF OUR LOCAL STAFF EAT LUNCH, AND NEAR THE FRIENDSHIP STORE, THE MAIN SHOPPING CENTER FOR FOREIGNERS. IT IS ALSO NEARER THE CENTER OF THE CITY THAN ALL BUT A HALF DOZEN MISSIONS. LOGISTICS DEMANDS ARE MINIMAL, AND WOULD BE MUCH GREATER IF WE WERE IN THE HINTERLANDS OF SAN LI TUN, WHERE MOST REMAINING AVAILABLE LAND IS FOUND.

3. AS REPORTED IN PEKING 1513, ONE CURRENT RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE HOSPITAL BEHIND OUR COMPOUND IS TO BE MOVED, TO MAKE WAY FOR USLO EXPANSION. WE ARE NOT SURE HOW MUCH
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SPACE WOULD BE AVAILABLE IF THIS WERE DONE, BUT THE PROPOSITION MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE.

4. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS A STRETCH OF LAND ALONG THE

MOAT AT THE WEST END OF THE STREET WE NOW FACE, KUANG HUA LU. IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL HOW MUCH SPACE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE THERE WITHOUT DISCUSSING PLANS WITH THE CHINESE.

5. WE SEE NO OTHER POSSIBILITIES EXCEPT IN THE REMOTE EDGES OF SAN LI TUN.

6. EVEN IF WE WERE TO SECURE PROMISE OF SUITABLE SPACE FOR LATER PERMANENT LOCATION, IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE FACILITIES COULD BE BUILT, AND PRESUMABLY WE WOULD NOT START BUILDING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FULL NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS WAS CONTEMPLATED, OR PERHAPS EVEN ANNOUNCED.

7. MEANWHILE, WE FACE URGENT NEED FOR MODEST INCREASE IN OFFICE SPACE AND FOR RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. WE NEED THREE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL (SEPTTEL) FOR WHOM THERE IS NO SPACE. SOON OUR AMERICAN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD IN THE ELEVATOR LANDING SPACE BETWEEN THE JENKINS AND HOLDRIDGE APARTMENTS -- A PATENTLY UNSATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT -- BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER ROOM AVAILABLE TO US. WE HAVE ARRANGED TO RECEIVE FILMS REGULARLY, BUT HAVE NOWHERE TO SHOW THEM EXCEPT IN THE APARTMENTS OF USLO PERSONNEL, TO THE DISTRESS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

8. IF WE COULD RENT ONE OF THE SEVERAL BUILDINGS NOW BEING BUILT ACROSS FROM OUR COMPOUND, WE COULD ACCOMMODATE THERE THE COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC SECTION, INCLUDING A LIBRARY AND ADEQUATE WAITING ROOM WHICH WE DO NOT NOW HAVE, OUR SCHOOL, CONFERENCE ROOM, A LANGUAGE ROOM, A COMBINATION RECREATION ROOM-THEATER, AND DOUBTLESS HOUSE A FEW OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS. IF THE MARINES COULD BE HOUSED THERE, FOR INSTANCE, IT WOULD MAKE THEM LESS CONSPICUOUS AND FURTHER EASE OUR LOGISTICS REQUIREMENTS.

9. APART FROM THE PRACTICAL NEEDS OUTLINED ABOVE, I BELIEVE THAT AN APPROACH TO THE CHINESE ON BOTH NEAR-TERM AND
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LONG-TERM PLANNING WOULD BE POLITICALLY DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME. OUR INSISTENTLY LOW PROFILE DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF OUR MISSION HERE HAS PROVED CORRECT. IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY BOTH THE CHINESE AND THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. NOW, HOWEVER, WE ARE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD PREFER A SOMEWHAT HIGHER PROFILE, AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO SERVE OUR INTERESTS --PARTICULARLY IN DEALING WITH THEM. WHILE WE CANNOT BE ENTIRELY SURE, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT REJECTION BY THE CHINESE OF OUR VISA REQUESTS FOR URGENTLY NEEDED TDY PERSONNEL MAY BE THEIR WAY OF SAYING IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO HAVE ADEQUATE STAFF IN PEKING TO COVER ABSENCES OF OUR PERSONNEL. THEY ARE PROBABLY UNEASY THAT THEIR

LARGER STAFF IN WASHINGTON AND THE ACQUISITION OF A 400-ROOM HOTEL MAKES THEM APPEAR MORE EAGER FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS THAN WE ARE. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE OUR MOVE WITH REGARD TO FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AND PARTICULARLY THE PEKING COMMUNIQUE, WHICH SPOKE OF QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES OF OUR RESPECTIVE LIAISON OFFICES.

10. I STILL BELIEVE IT WISE TO KEEP OUR STAFF MODEST IN SIZE. HOWEVER, WE CLEARLY REQUIRE LIMITED EXPANSION IN PERSONNEL AND SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS OF SPACE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF EFFICIENCY AND MORALE.

11. REQUEST PERMISSION TO DISCUSS PROVISIONALLY AT HIGH LEVEL AND IN CONFIDENCE OUR LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS, AND MORE OPENLY AT THAT OR LOWER LEVEL OUR MORE IMMEDIATE NEEDS. BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DOWNGRADED FROM NODIS TO EXDIS PER MR. GAMMON S/S--12/26/73.

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